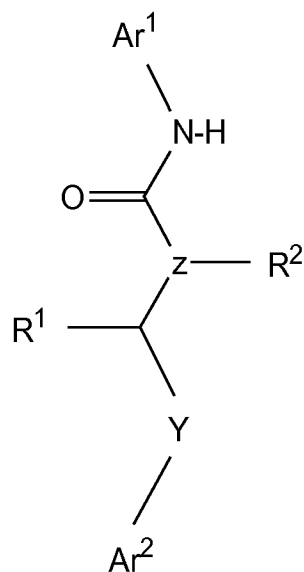


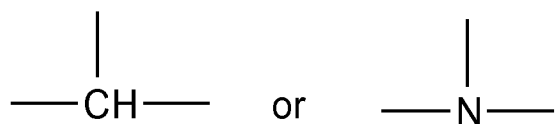
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

z is selected from



Y is selected from a valence bond or $\text{—CH}_2\text{—}$;

R^2 is hydrogen or methyl and R^1 is selected from $\text{—Q—CO}_2\text{H}$, —Q—CN , wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by —O— , —S— or —NH— ; or

R^1 is hydrogen or methyl and R^2 is selected from $\text{Q—CO}_2\text{H}$, Q—CN , wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or selected from the group consisting of straight chains: CH_2 , $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH}_2$, $\text{CH}_2\text{—CH}_2\text{—CH}_2$, S—CH_2 , $\text{S—CH}_2\text{—CH}_2$, O—CH_2 , $\text{O—CH}_2\text{—CH}_2$, NH—CH_2 , NH—

CH₂-CH₂ or the branch strains: -CH(CH₃)-, -CH₂-CH(CH₃)-, -CH₂-CH₂-CH(CH₃)-, -S-CH(CH₃)-, -S₀CH₂-CH(CH₃)-, -NH-CH(CH₃)-, -NH-CH₂-CH(CH₃)- ~~an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-, but where R₂ excludes Me-CH(-COOH);~~

Ar₁ and Ar₂ are independently selected from a 3-10 membered monocyclic or bicyclic saturated or unsaturated cycloalkyl, or aryl ring having 0-4 heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen, or sulphur, wherein Ar₁ and/or Ar₂ is optionally and independently substituted by one to four R₃ groups and each R₃ is independently selected from -R₄, -F, -Cl, -Br, -J, -NO₂, -CN, -O-R₄, -(CH₂)_n-O-R₄ (n=1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8), -S-R₄, -N(R₄)₂, -NR₄-C-O-R₄, -NR₄-C-O-N(R₄)₂, -NR₄-SO₂R₄, -NR₄-SO₂N(R₄)₂, -CO-CO-R₄, or CO-CH₂-CO-R₄; wherein each R₄ is independently selected from hydrogen, or from an C1-6 aliphatic group,

with the exception of 5-(3-chloro-4-methylanilino)-5-oxo-3-phenylpentanoic acid and 5-(2-fluoro-4-iodoanilino)-5-oxo-3-phenylpentanoic acid.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ are independently 3-8 membered monocyclic, or 8-10 membered bicyclic cycloalkyl, or 5-6 membered monocyclic or 8-10 bicyclic aryl ring, or 5-6 membered monocyclic or 8-10 membered bicyclic heteroaryl ring having 1-4 heteroatoms.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar₁ and Ar₂ are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, naphthyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl, wherein as an option Ar₁ and/or Ar₂ is substituted by 1-4 R₃ groups.

4. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is -CH₂-, R₂ is -H, and R₁ is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

5. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R₂ is -H, and R₁ is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein

each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

6. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R₂ is -H, and R₁ is selected from -Q-CO₂H, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

7. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R₁ is -H, and R₂ is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of formula (1) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 9, including a physiologically effective dose of the compound of formula (1) and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Withdrawn) A method for preventing or treating a disease related to an AGC kinase, comprising PDK1 or PKB, having an abnormal high or low activity, wherein a compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9 is administered in a physiologically effective dose to an organism having the risk of obtaining the disease or suffering from the disease.

13. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 2, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, naphthyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl, wherein as an option Ar1 and/or Ar2 is substituted by 1-4 R3 groups.

14. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$, R2 is $-\text{H}$, and R1 is selected from $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{Q}-1H\text{-tetrazol-5-yl}$, $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$ or $-\text{NH}-$.

15. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 3, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is a nitrogen, Y is $-\text{CH}_2-$, R2 is $-\text{H}$, and R1 is selected from $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{Q}-1H\text{-tetrazol-5-yl}$, $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$ or $-\text{NH}-$.

16. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is $=\text{CH}-$, Y is a valence bond, R2 is $-\text{H}$, and R1 is selected from $-\text{Q}-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$, $\text{Q}-1H\text{-tetrazol-5-yl}$, $-\text{Q}-\text{CN}$,

wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

17. (Withdrawn) A compound according to claim 3, wherein X is a valence bond, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

18. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 2, wherein X is -NH-, Z is =CH-, Y is a valence bond, R2 is -H, and R1 is selected from -Q-CO₂H, Q-*1H*-tetrazol-5-yl, -Q-CN, wherein each Q is independently selected from a valence bond or an optionally substituted C1-3 alkylidene chain, wherein one or two non-adjacent methylene units of Q are optionally and independently replaced by -O-, -S- or -NH-.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes, Alzheimer's Disease, Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, AIDS associated dementia, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), multiple sclerosis (MS), schizophrenia, cardiomyocyte hypertrophy, ischemia, and baldness, comprising combining a physiologically effective dose of the compound of formula (1) and a pharmaceutically effective carrier.

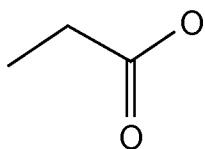
20. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, wherein Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from phenyl, indolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridinyl, quinolyl, or isoquinolyl.

21. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

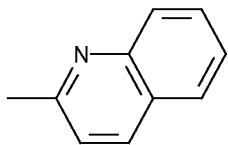
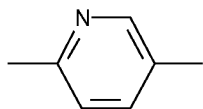
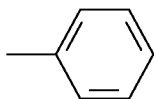
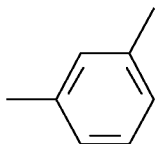
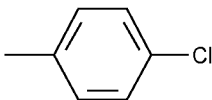
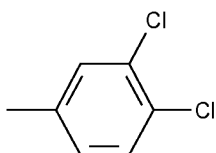
Z is CH;

Y is a valence bond;

R1 and R2 are independently selected from hydrogen or a group



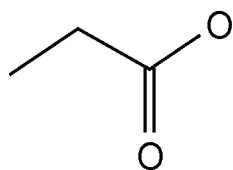
Ar1 and Ar2 are independently selected from



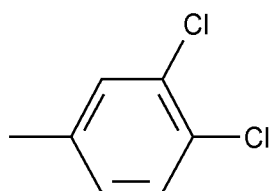
22. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein

Z is CH, Y is valence bond,

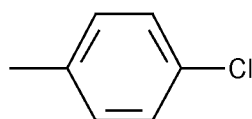
R1 is hydrogen, R2 is a group



Ar1 is a group



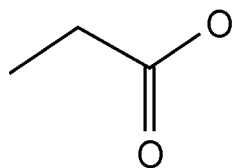
Ar2 is a group



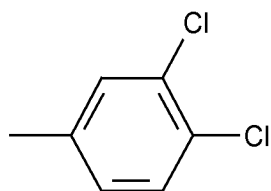
or

Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,

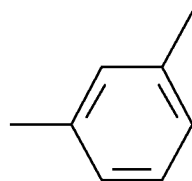
R1 is hydrogen, R2 is a group



Ar1 is a group



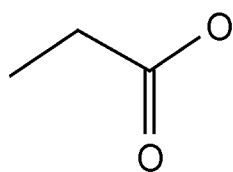
Ar2 is a group



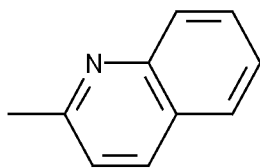
or

Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,

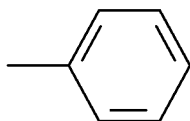
R2 is hydrogen, R1 is a group



Ar1 is a group



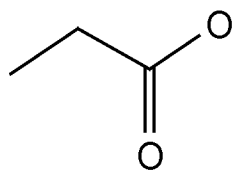
Ar₂ is a group



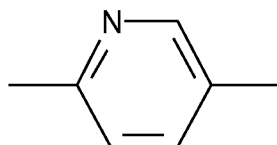
or

Z is CH, Y is a valence bond,

R₂ is hydrogen, R₁ is a group



Ar is a group



Ar₂ is a group

